

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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OCT 22 2008

Dear Tribal Leader:

In July 2008, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) sent you the working draft Tribal Communication Plan, prepared by the Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) for the California Water Plan Update 2009 (CWP). In their October 10 meeting, the TCC began moving ahead on Objective 10, which calls for a California Tribal Water Summit in the summer of 2009.

We are writing to invite your Tribe to designate a member of your Tribe to join the Planning Team for the California Tribal Water Summit.

- The role of the Planning Team is to identify topics, develop materials, and conduct outreach for the Summit by working with interested California Native American Tribes, including non-federally recognized and federally recognized Tribes, and appropriate State agencies.
- The Summit's theme is "**Protect Our Sacred Water**," and we aim to have **Governor Schwarzenegger** and members of his administration participate.

We believe your Tribe's participation will contribute substantially to the outcome of the Summit. Planning Team membership is open to any California Native American Tribal member or staff. People will participate as individuals with expertise and volunteer their time. Planning Team members will need to participate in monthly meetings, each lasting about four hours. DWR will reimburse Planning Team members their travel expenses.

The idea of having a Tribal Water Summit emerged from the work of the TCC. DWR convened this voluntary committee in October 2007 to help all State agencies involved in the CWP to communicate better with California Native American Tribes. The TCC released a working draft Tribal Communication Plan in July (see [www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/tribal2](http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/tribal2)).

The TCC has helped involve many Tribes in major CWP activities, including:

- a Tribal Water Plenary hosted by Big Valley Rancheria
- all twelve Regional Workshops, including one hosted by Table Mountain Rancheria
- five Resource Management Strategy workshops, including one on Forest Management – an entirely new strategy created based on Tribal recommendations
- the 2008 All Regions Forum, 2008 Plenary, and quarterly Advisory Committee meetings

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Through these activities, Tribes identified many key water issues and raised the awareness of State agencies and stakeholders. These issues will inform the Planning Team's efforts.

**We would like to learn about your Tribe's important water issues, and a survey form is enclosed.**

**Equally important, please be sure to let us know if your Tribe will designate a member to join the Planning Team.** To reply, or if you have questions, contact Barbara Cross, DWR's Tribal Liaison, at (916) 653-5150 or [bcross@water.ca.gov](mailto:bcross@water.ca.gov).


**Finally, please use the enclosed contact form to let us know who else should receive information about this effort and be added to the TCC mailing list.**

With respect,

California Water Plan Update 2009 Tribal Communication Committee

and

Department of Water Resources

  
Mark W. Cowin  
Deputy Director

Enclosures

cc: Tribal Communication Committee